



October 30, 2018

To all the faithful of the diocese of Prince Albert,

The harvest has ended, and we wait patiently for the snow to come when all will become a glistening white!

At the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) Plenary this September, I had hoped that clarification would be reached on the partner agencies of Development and Peace and that we Bishops could return to our dioceses with a clean slate to continue with ministry with an attitude of “business as usual”. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

As you may know, there are some partner agencies that are not accepted by the Bishops’ Conference, as they condone and, at times, advocate policies and practices which are against our Catholic teachings and do not fully respect the sanctity of human life. Consequently, many Bishops withheld the monies this year from the Lenten collections until we received clarification on the development of the partner agencies. Once again, we were informed that partners remained who are not abiding by our Catholic teachings and that clarification has not yet been reached. Dark clouds seem to hover over Development and Peace at this time.

After much discernment, however, I have decided to forward the 2018 Lenten Campaign collections to Development and Peace with a clear indication that the sum should be used only for projects approved by the CCCC. Over the last 50 years of its existence, Development and Peace has helped countless number of people and has supported many developing projects in poor areas of our world. They have also helped us all to have a deeper understanding of our Christian responsibility to our fellow people. For this, I am very proud, and I am proud of those who have been so generous in supporting financially these needed projects for the poor and hopeless.

I pray that the partner agencies who currently follow guidelines against our Christian teachings will change so that we may continue to work in this partnership with them for Development and Peace has educated us that in our world of plenty, many still live a day to day reality of poverty and suffering. We, as Christians, would like to overcome these challenges by standing with these poor people who are seeking justice.

The Diocese of Prince Albert will continue to support Development and Peace in the use and promotion of their educational programs. Further collections will be possible once the concerns on the remaining partner agencies have been satisfied so that we may accompany our brothers and sisters in need wholeheartedly, in transparency and love.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Albert Thévenot, M. Afr.  
Bishop of Prince Albert

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*To help our people rediscover Christ, the incarnate word of God because we are all called to holiness'*